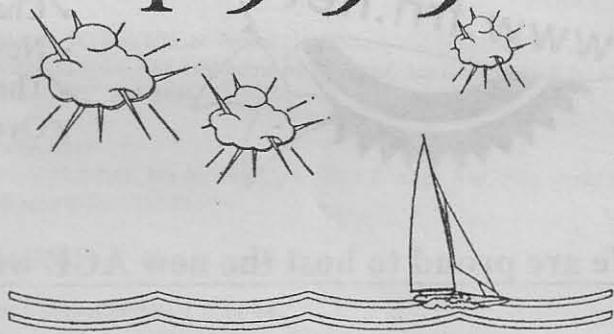


THE  
**ACE**  
**NEWSLETTER**  
**AUGUST**  
**1999**



**Yes, you were listening to  
KEY WEST RADIO! Thank you  
for logging us on 6955 kHz..  
11/20 . 1995. from COOG to  
0039 UTC. We were xmitting  
with 100 watts in the ush mode.  
and were drinking killa's brownale  
You heard program #2. This  
is QSL #20. Thanks again!**

**America's Premiere  
Pirate Radio  
Publication**

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## DIALOGS

AUGUST 1999

Joe Filipkowski; 28 Mill Wheel Rd., Warwick, RI 02886-8453  
JoeFLIPS@aol.com (401) 736-8826

### - LATE LOGS -

Alfa Lima Int.: 6/19-2304-11480.5-AM. (PD,ME fair to very good)  
CHU: 6/19-0011-6950-AM. (LS,OH 554 PLS QSL)  
WHYP: 6/16-0034-6955.3-AM. (NW,ONT very good)  
6/16-0154-6955.3-AM. (NW,ONT very good)  
6/19-0147-6955-LSB. (MH,SC 343) (LS,OH 252)  
WWRB: 6/19-0100-6955-LSB. (MH,SC 444) (LS,OH 353 PLS QSL) (BF,PA)

### - FROM ACROSS THE POND -

Alfa Lima International- PO Box 663, cc 7900ar Hoogeveen, The Netherlands  
July 10/11-2334-0222+-11480.4-AM. OM w/mx by Meatloaf, Joe Cocker, local weather info & timechecks. (PD,ME fair) (RC, MA 343)

Laser Hot Hits- Merlin, ONT

July 11-0318-0457+-6218.8-AM. Mx by The Ojays, The Beatles, The Who, anncr read some local TV schedules & pgm info. (PD,ME fair)

### Stations Relayed via SWRS:

BCB Radio-2 Forster Sq., Bradford BD1 1DQ, UK  
July 16-2137-2204\*-11470 & 21860-USB. 2 English OM's playing pop mx, mentioned something abt "Flashback BCB". (JF,RI 1-242)

Highlands Classic Rock- 9 New St., Mansfield, Victoria 3722, Australia

July 9-\*2037-2100+-21799.8-USB. Replay of pgm hrd on 5/1 on 11470 USB. (JF,RI 243)

KUOI FM- KUOI FM, Student Union Building, Moscow, ID 83844-4272

June 21-0116-0210+-11470-USB. Pgm of alternative rock, metal & punk, YL tx abt the Black Panthers, segment w/PA death row inmate Mumia Abu Jamal, sd "student radio from the University of Idaho in Moscow, ID". (PD,ME fair to good)

Radio Pasteur- Casilla 1852, 1000 Buenos Aires, Argentina

June 21-0014-0114-11470 USB. Andean flute mx including a version of "El Condor Pasa", Vincent Price laughter, several IDs in EE & SS. (PD,ME good)

SWRS Radio- Wuppertal, Germany & [swrs@usa.net](mailto:swrs@usa.net)

July 3/4 2308-0430+-11470-USB. IDs, frequencies, e-mail & postal info repeated for 4+ hours. (PD,ME fair)

### UNID

July 9-2034-2036\*-21799.8-USB. Caught end of show w/flute mx & OM mentioning relay via SWRS. (JF,RI 243)

## - NORTH AMERICA - SHORTWAVE -

### Alan Masyga Project- Providence, RI

June 27-\*1437-1452\*-6955-USB. Mx by Alan Parsons Project, OM repeating things like "yes, yes, yes" & "I love, I love, I love". (JF,RI 243)

### Blind Faith Radio- Merlin, ONT & blindfaithradio@yahoo.com

July 4-2137-2201\*-6955-USB. Dr. Napalm w/mx by The Beach Boys, funny ads & QRT w/Jimi Hendrix National Anthem. (GM,VA 343) (LS,OH 454) (WH,IL 154)

### CERW "Crazy Elmo's Relay World"- anned crazyelmo@youpy.com

June 27-\*0036-0105\*-6955.4-USB. Songs Shania Twain, The Offspring, Ricky Martin, Pearl Jam, theme from COPS, frequent IDs by chipmunk voiced OM. (GZ, OH 242+) (JF,RI 444) (PD,ME good)

June 27-\*2154-2223\*-6955-USB. Replay of 6/27, 0036 UTC show. (PD,ME very good) (BF,PA excellent) (JF,RI 254/243)

### KIPM- QSL info unknown

July 4-1503-1515-6955-AM. Mx & OM mentioned a fender bender on the freeway. (LS,OH 252/151 PLS QSL)

July 4-1946-2028\*-6955-AM. Mx & mentioned "a brand new Jeep". (LS,OH 252/151 PLS QSL)

July 5-0107-0213\*-6955.4-USB. Elaborate pgm of eight minute traffic reports from LA & philosophical discussions w/OM Alan Maxwell, some Pink Floyd & instrumental mx. (GZ,OH 242) (MH,SC 343) (MP,NY 333) (WH,IL 133 as KIEM)

### KMART- stonecold6955@hotmail.com

June 27-2120-2148\*-6955-USB. Anner Stone Cold playing songs by The Beach Boys like "I Get Around", "409", "Little Deuce Coup", "Shut You Down", funny ads for John Holmes Pizza, O'Malley's Chili, slogan of "from your lips to my ass", sd you have to ID at least 3 songs for a QSL. (PD,ME very good) (JF,RI 254)

### KRFI- QSL info unknown

July 11-0415-0427-6955-USB. Segment on SW freqs & bands followed by clips of Dr. T & Jimmy The Weasel. (PD,ME good)

### KRMI "Radio Michigan International"- QSL info unknown

June 20-0146-0157-6955-AM. Mx & a couple of IDs. (LS,OH 353)

June 20-0248-0258\*-6950.2-USB. Hard to understand OM playing rock & novelty songs. (GZ,OH 454+) (NW,ONT good)

June 20-0311-0324-6955-USB. Same stuff. (NW,ONT good)

### KRUZ- QSL info unknown

July 3-1456-1605\*-6955-AM. New stn w/a variety of mx, many stn IDs. (LS,OH 454/252 PLS QSL)

### Nexus One- QSL info unknown

June 19-0251-0256\*-6956.1-LSB. OM looking for reports from other ops, sd he was beaming to the east coast, some blues mx. (GZ,OH 232) (PD,ME good) (LS,OH 454 PLS QSL)

June 19-0345-0350-6955.5-USB. Caught end of pgm, request for QSO. (JC,ONT 333 PLS QSL)

### Radio Azteca- Belfast, NY

July 5-0507-0514\*-6955-USB. Pgm #34 w/mailbag, anner Bram Stoker sd he hrld from Lee Silvi but not George Zeller, Actual Stuff, The Flushing Report, Top 10 DX Phobias sudden QRT. (PD,ME fair)

July 5-0612+-6955-USB. More of pgm #34 w/Real Stuff. (PD, ME good)

July 10-\*2221-2234+-6955-USB. Replay pgm #34. (NW,ONT good) (GZ,OH 353+) (JF,RI 455)

### Radio Beaver- Merlin, ONT

July 4-0003-0009-6955-USB. Anner Bucky Beaver sd new pgm, bagpipe mx, stated Ont. Premier Mike Harris is "an asshole", discussed problems in Northern Ont. including bear hunting issues. (RC,MA 444)

July 4-0405-0420-6954.9v-USB. Replay of 7/4, 0003 UTC pgm. (WH,IL 233)

### Radio Bingo- radiobingo@chek.com

July 2-0340-6955.1-USB. Bingo game. (WH,IL 144)

July 10-\*2138-2144\*-6955-USB. Orange card game being brought to you by Niel Wolfish, sd to call JTA to verify winnings. (JF,RI 444)

### Radio Dairymart (tent.)- QSL info unknown

June 26-0249-0252-6955-USB. Unsure of ID, sd testing & possibly played a song. (LS,OH 352)

### Radio Garbanzo- Belfast, NY

June 20-\*0037-0119\*-6954.9-AM. Fearless Fred w/fast paced pgm of rock mx & comedy sketches, sang Garbanzo song to tune of Green Acres, mentioned live show from NE United States, some QRM from LA stn on 6955.5. (GZ,OH 232) (MH,SC 222) (NW,ONT fair) (LS,OH 454)

### Radio Metallica Worldwide- Blue Ridge Summit, PA

June 27-1850-1915-6955.3-AM. Songs: "I Gotta Wear Shades", "Barracuda" & "Saved By Zero". (PD,ME fair)

June 27-2226-2315-6961.1-AM. Songs by Pearl Jam, MC Hammer, Filter, Yes & the "Secret Agent Man" theme. (BF,PA excellent) (PD,ME excellent) (JF,RI 555)

### Radio Tornado Worldwide- QSLs via Dialogs, FRW or FRN postings

June 22-0300-0306-6955.6-AM. Clips of Jimmy The Weasel & Dr.Tornado. (PD,ME very good)

June 26-0150-0243+-6955.3-USB. Usual RMWW parody. (BF,PA excellent) (JF,RI 344) (PD,ME good) (LS,OH 353)

June 27-2315-2325-6961.3-USB. On after RMWW w/loop of various doctor names like Dr.Y2K, Dr.Kosovo, Dr.6955, Dr.Treebark. (PD,ME very good)

### Voice Of Anarchy- Blue Ridge Summit, PA

July 6-\*0000-0041\*-6956.1-AM. Well produced pgm of 60's/70's protest mx w/host Leonard Longwire, some IDs by YL Linda Longwire, sd might be last show. (GZ,OH 454) (SM,OK)

### Voice Of Prozac- Pittsburgh, PA

July 6-0045-0102\*-6955-AM. Pgm of rock mx w/dead air, ID @QRT by synthesized voice. (GZ,OH 242)

### WACK Radio- wackradiomail@juno.com

July 3-0213-0239+-6955-USB. Funny ads for Ebonics, Lost Helen Keller Recordings, mx & phone message from Scott McArdle. (GM,CT 555) (LS,OH 252/251)

### WBIG- Belfast, NY

June 20-0028-0036\*-6954.8-AM. Cameo ID by Phil Muzik of KNBS, rock mx, QRT w/ "Mexican Radio". (GZ,OH 333) (MH,SC 322) (LS,OH 454)

### WDRR- anned wdrr@juno.com

July 10-2015-2033\*-6955.1-AM. Anner JG Tiger w/live brdcst, mx by Reverend Horton Heat, The Ventures & a rockabilly group from Boston, slogan of "Desperate Rock & Roll Radio". (JF,RI 4-555 great to hear again!)

**WHYP- whyp1530@yahoo.com**

June 20-0139-6950-USB. Dave Clark Five mx & James Brownyard sounds. (NW,ONT good)  
June 20-0331-0350-6955-USB. Mx by The Eagles, Moody Blues, Supertramp & Duran Duran  
along w/CBC clips announcing freq. change. (NW,ONT good) (PD,ME very good) (LS,OH 454)  
June 23-2237-2239-6955-USB. Usual soundclips. (LS,OH 454)  
June 25-0200-0211-6955.3-USB. James Brownyard weather reports for Cleveland and Buffalo.  
(PD,ME good)  
June 26-0138-0153\*-6955.3-USB. Weather reports & "yay, yay, yay's", rock mx incl. "Let It Ride" by BTO, CD player disk cleaner bit. (PD,ME good) (JF,RI 344)  
June 26-2321-2322\*-6955-USB. Caught end of show. (JF,RI 344)  
June 27-0133+-6955.5-USB. Usual stuff. (JF,RI 344)  
July 10-2050-2055\*-6955-USB. CBC Radio clips & James reading the news & giving his weather reports. (JF,RI 455)  
July 10-\*2144-2147\*-6955-USB. More CBC stuff. (JF,RI 444)  
July 11-2150-2203+-6955-USB. Indian accented OM giving the weather for Indian cities & talking abt the Bay of Bengal. (PD,ME good) (NW,ONT fair)  
July 15-0353-0400-6955-LSB. "Going for the record" temps. & singing. (PD,ME good)

**WIL- QSL info unknown**

July 5-0142-0145\*-6950.2-AM. Old L&M Cigarette ad, abrupt QRT during some oldies mx.  
(PD,ME fair)  
July 5-2046-2117\*-6955.1-AM. Pgm of mx from the 30's & very old rock oldies w/OM Jack Carney, old ads for Barbasol, Busch Bavarian Beer, Fire Island, 1951 Cadillac, Lubritone & Stereophonic equipment, jingles for "Wonderful WIL". (LS,OH 454/353 PLS QSL) (GZ OH 252) (GM,VA 232 PLS QSL)-George Zeller notes this may have been a recreation or a recording of a historic St.Louis stn. (JF)

**WKND- Blue Ridge Summit, PA**

July 4-0008-0041-6955-AM. (tent.) Hard to hear through static & QRM from Peruvian stn but sounded like WKND & gave the BRS maildrop. (LS,OH 353/252) (MP,NY 232)

**WLIS- Blue Ridge Summit, PA**

June 26/27-\*2338-0004\*-6955.5-USB. Relay via CERW, lotsa Bram Stoker IDs & one by Fearless Fred, ads for Al's Barbeque & EMTA, mx by R.E.M., IS de All India R. (PD,ME good) (MH,SC 444) (JF,RI 444)

**WMFQ- Providence, RI**

June 26-\*2244-2312\*-6955-USB. Via CERW, mx including The Offspring, theme from "That 70's Show", song "Lucy In The Sky With Diamonds", usual shouted IDs. (JF,RI 344) (PD,ME good)

June 27-1325-1340+-6955-USB. Some instrumental mx & song by The Foo Fighters, sd "we won't make you wait 3 years for a QSL like K-2000!", relay via CERW. (GZ,OH 252/ 151+) (PD,ME fair) (JF,RI 243)

**WMPR- QSL info unknown**

July 4-2333-2353-6955.2-AM. Grateful Dead mx. (MH,SC 343) (MP,NY 444 PLS QSL)  
(WH,IL 244 as unid)

**WSKY- Belfast, NY**

June 25-2302-2338+-6955-AM. Doors mx, mentioned Halloween & Thanksgiving, poll results, gave old Wellsville drop. (BF,PA tape of an old show?) (MH,SC 343)

**WSRR/Solid Rock Radio- Belfast, NY**

July 5-2143-2149\*-6955.1-USB. Annr Dr.Love w/pgm of soul mx, tx abt forthcoming web site, sd hello to several stn's & listeners. (GZ,OH 252) (GM,VA 343) (LS,OH 252)

**WWRX- wwrx@hotmail.com**

July 10-2159-2210+-6955-USB. Jimmy The Weasel parody pgm. (JF,RI 444)

**WWV- QSL info unknown**

July 5-0030-0040-6956-AM. Time pips & WWV announcements, funny ads for WWV t-shirts. (MH,SC 444) (MP,NY 333 PLS QSL)

**XB37- QSL info unknown**

July 5-\*0000-0021\*-6955.4-USB. Anncd as a test pgm w/mx by Guns & Roses, host discussing distrust of the government, how Nazi's won WW2, sd your mail could be opened & read, QRT w/sfx from the movie Dr.Strangelove. (MH,SC 343) (GM,VA 444 PLS QSL) (PD,ME fair) (MP,NY 333 PLS QSL) (WH,IL 143)

July 5-0430-0443-6955-USB. Replay of 7/5, 0000 UTC show. (PD,ME fair)

## - UNIDENTIFIEDS -

June 26-0001-0010-6950.2-AM. Rock mx including Elvis Costello. (PD,ME fair)

June 27-1849-1908+-6955-AM. Hrd bluesy like mx. (LS,OH 555)

June 27-2013+-6955-AM. Similar to 6/27, 1849 UTC unid. (LS,OH 555)

June 30-0305-0308-6955.1-USB. Sammy Hagar "I Can't Drive 55". (PD,ME good)

July 2-0145-0200-6955.4-USB. Rock mx, comedy, goofy sounding DJ. (WH,IL 144)

July 3-2304-00047-6955-AM. Mx & mention of New Jersey & the New England states. (LS,OH 353/252 PLS QSL)

July 4-1915-6954.7v-AM. Tx abt dirty laundry & divorce, maybe RMWW? (WH,IL 111)  
July 4-2243-2246-6955-USB. Opened w/"Sloop John B" by The Beach Boys but soon faded out. (LS,OH 455/251 PLS QSL)

July 5-0221-0227-6950-USB. Host sd it was hard to set up his xmtr in an outdoor location in the dark, School House Rock song abt the American Revolution. (PD,ME fair to good) (MP,NY 343 PLS QSL)

July 5-1306-1322-6955-AM. Possible Bob Dylan mx. (LS,OH 352 PLS QSL)

July 5-2110-6955.1-USB. "Save The Last Dance For Me", tough copy. (WH,IL 131)

July 5-2120-2127-6955-AM. 50-ish mx. (LS,OH 454 PLS QSL)

July 6-0045-6955v-AM. Badly muffled audio, rock mx by The Sex Pistols & others. (WH,IL 132)

July 6-2324-2341-6955-USB. Dance mx incl. "Wishing" by A Flock Of Seagulls. (PD,ME fair)

July 10-2214-2216\*-6955-USB. Song "James Brown Is Dead". (JF,RI 444)

July 10-2305-2338\*-6955-USB. OM hard to understand but hrld "we gotta get on w/the show now" at one point & "bye-bye" @QRT, gave PO Box 422, Wellsville, NY, ads for Hershey's Chocolate & Cracker Jacks, asked for a SASE w/reports. (PD,ME fair) (JF,RI 444 PLS ID/ QSL)

July 10-2340-2355\*-6955-USB. James Brownyard parody w/mx by The Blues Brothers & Jane's Addiction, sudden QRT while OM doing Brownyard imitation was cracking up in laughter. (PD,ME good)

## - CONTRIBUTORS / PLEASE QSL ADDRESSES -

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### \*\*\* DX NEWS OF INTEREST \*\*\*

ACE member & Dialogs contributor Bill Finn passes along word that the Farmers From Holland were raided recently. No further information was available at my column deadline.

Leonard Longwire from the Voice Of Anarchy checked in again this month to let us know that the program he aired on 7/6/99 was the last brdcast of his station. The reason he gave was "the word "anarchy" becoming too much of a liability". He says he might be back under a different name or call letters in the future. Leonard also mentioned that the WWV parody station listed in DiaLogs this month was his doing. No word on whether or not he will QSL the loggings.

**Deadline for September 1999 DiaLogs: August 20th**

### \* ATTENTION ALL ACE MEMBERS \*

ACE Headquarters has a new mailing address:

P.O. Box 15830 Chesapeake, Virginia 23328-5830

Use this address for subscription inquiries or information. Contact individual editors using their addresses at the top of each column.

## Veried Response

Your center for QSL information and comment  
John T. Arthur, proprietor 7994 Rte 19 Belfast, NY 14711-8702  
(716) 365-8870 (m.o.i.) not collect  
e-mail: cc732@freenet.buffalo.edu -OR- trollman@jillbrown.com

With help from the VR Troopers and other Good Friends VR is electronically transmitted to the A\*C\*E Hdq on or before the 20th of each month; please send your inputs and comments to the above address to arrive prior to the 15th. Your active participation in the form of inputs, reports, suggestions, and/or constructive criticism is solicited and welcome. Unless otherwise attributed, opinions in VR are those of this mildly disturbed individual and should not be misinterpreted to represent The A\*C\*E as an organization, or any other sane person for that matter. Got a beef? Comments and complaints should be directed to this columnist in triplicate for round-filing - and not to any other address...

## The Swappe Shoppe

buy, sell, trade announcements free to A\*C\*E members

Please be concise but complete: If you're looking for something, accurately describe what you want; if you're offering something for sale give make, model, honest condition, and asking price. Please help me keep these ads up to date! NO collect calls unless otherwise specified.

### Wanted:

New Zealand's free radio specialist needs recordings of US legal and pirate stations for a Radio Sound Archive. If you can contribute contact: SMR via Box 1, Belfast, NY 14711.

**USA and Euro Pirates:** Yr jingles and promos are needed by the Op of SMR for a 7" compilation. Send any contributions via Box 1, Belfast; and help preserve Free Radio history.

### For Sale:

FT243 crystals for: 5825, 5850, 6025, 6100, 6150, 6250, 6275, 6300, 6875, 6900, 6975, 6987.5, 7250.3, 7400, 7465, 7470, 8356, and 8400: US\$5 each. Contact: jta for details.

MFJ-941D 300W HF antenna tuner, good condition, with manual: \$40. Motorola VHF linear amplifier, 5-7W in, 60W out, operates on 12VDC, with manual, \$50. Interested parties can contact: tmsevert@fament.com or write to: Tom Severt, 305 Granby, Frontenac, KS 66763-2440. All items will ship via UPS.

Upgrade books for 10-meter radios including Uniden, Realistic, Ranger, RCI, Sommerkamp and moré. Improve xmit, rcv, synthesizer and audio sections - no crappy

CB junk! Inquiries require a #10 SASE, all others will be ignored. Contact: Bud Stacey, PO Box 907, Satsuma, AL 36572.

Theremin - make wild sounds! Assembled PC boards with instructions, just add your case; 10 available: \$50 to ACE members. Contact: C Collins, POB 342502, Milwaukee, WI 53234.

Various FT243 crystals for older Heath and Johnson rigs; 90, 41 and 19 meters available: US\$10/each, shipped. For a complete list, send a #10 SASE to: DVS, POB 1, Belfast, NY 14711.

Now you can enjoy your favorite pirate programs in the privacy of your own home or car without all the usual noise and static! The DVS Archive contains over 400 programs from more than 100 different stations, and your cost is absurdly low: only US\$2 per program (\$4 for two on one tape) if you supply the tape, or for just \$6 DVS will supply the C90 for two programs. For a list of what's available, send a #10 SASE to: DVS, POB 1, Belfast, NY 14711.

Ever wonder how you can broadcast legally - but without a license? Want to serve a small area on your campus or around your school? "Adventures in Part 15 Broadcasting" is a clear, concise overview of the hobby and how it's done, what's permitted and what's not. Your copy is only US\$15 from: Bud Stacey, PO Box 907, Satsuma, AL 36572.

#### For Trade:

Commercial-grade FM exciter capable of 30 watts output, FCC type-approved, fully metered, set for 92.5 MHz. Will trade for quality HF rig with at least 100 watts output. Contact: jta for info.

## **Already August !.... or Last Minute Antenna System Maintenance...**

Hard to believe, but the nice warm weather (in the Northern Hemisphere at least) is not going to last much longer. If your antenna system exhibits wear & tear, NOW is the time to do something about it. With a little foresight, you got some antenna wire and coax at a hamfest - and maybe got a balun or a center connector at the same time - so you're all set... Now it's just a matter of scheduling a bar-b-q with a few of the guys, scoring a couple cases of brewskis, and getting everything done at once.

Take a few minutes (even a few hours) and check things out. Is the antenna wire corroded? It's gonna be brittle if it's been up there for very long. Replace it for sure. Is the coax insulation cracking? If so it's time to toss it in the trash and install new. As a general rule of thumb (especially if you buy your wire at Radio Shack) you should plan on replacing the entire dipole every three to five years - exact length of time will vary somewhat based on your specific location, of course. The RG8M coax RS sells is good for roughly that length of time, and the copper antenna wire will oxidize itself into dust in about that period as well.

It really doesn't take that long to construct a dipole and sling it into place; especially with a few friends to help with the slinging! You'll need a tape measure, a large pair of diagonal cutters or "tin snips", a BIG soldering gun (the Weller 550 watt gun is not too large for this job, but the 8200 series works fine) and some 60/40 resin-core solder to get started.

You do know what frequency you wanna work on, yes? Probably 6955 like everybody else? The formula is: 468 divided by the Frequency in MHz, so it's 6.955 into 468 on the rusty...errrrr, make that..trusty..! calculator and we come up with a figure of 67.289 feet - just over 67 feet 3 inches, so measure to 67' 4" and then allow an extra FOOT before you cut anything. Once you've gotten it untangled, you need to cut this length of wire precisely in half so that the two resulting pieces are 33 feet 8 inches. Repeat the untangling procedure (x2). If you ever have a question remember this: It's much easier to cut a wire long and shorten it later, than it is to cut a wire short and lengthen it. Additionally, a wire slightly longer than resonance is easier for a tuner to work with than a slightly short wire.

Once you have everything under control again, bend each end of each wire exactly THREE INCHES from the end - this is where you will install insulators or the center balun. These 3 inches will be bent back and wrapped around itself - and soldered! - to make the antenna. Place an insulator at ONE end of each wire, complete bending the wire back and wrap it tightly around itself, and solder well. Congratulations; you have one end of the dipole completed. Just run some rope or guy wire thru the other holes in the insulators and you're ready to hang it. Well, almost.

Dig thru the closet to find the center insulator (or balun) you \*know\* you bought at Dayton. Once you've managed that (or given up and bought another one), insert the remaining bent ends into opposing sides of the thing, bend back and wrap, and solder. Voila! The antenna is built. Pop another beer. Don't party too much however - there's still the feedline. The what?

Return to closet and begin tossing things out. Where the heck is that dad-ratted coax?? I know I bought some... Back to the Shack; they're calling you by name now - and don't have to ask each time they ring you up! Scary, huh?

OK. You decided to purchase a pre-made cable with the connectors on it already. Paid too much, but it'll save ya time, right? Except that you calculated a bit close. Just as Bill yanked the wire free of the last branch, the coax pulled right out of the crimp-on PL259 plug and landed with a "Plop!" at your feet. Now you've got a choice: Do you tell Bill to bring the rope back down and hope he's not too drunk to climb the tree again when you've made the necessary repairs? Or do you just say "Thanks" and take care of it later?

Pop open another beer and look at it for a while. Bill's passed out under the tree, and Dan is already on the phone with the wife getting a "Honey Do" list for the trip home. Looks like your shiny new dipole will stay up and your shiny new coax will stay down. For now...

Better look at the Ground connection instead. You \*do\* have a Ground, don't you? If not, you and your radio are living on borrowed time. If you do, take a good close look at it. There could be some oxidation at the connection point(s), which will result in a high-

resistance Ground, which is almost as bad as NO Ground. If you use electrical Transit Clamps to hold your wire to the Ground Rod, it can't hurt to disassemble them every few years - maybe take a steel-bristle brush to everything - and clean 'em up. Brush the Rod, too; get things as shiny as possible (but don't go overboard!) and then put everything back together; get things nice and snug - and maybe cover the connections with some left-over coax-seal to help prevent future corrosion.

You'll find that occasional antenna maintenance and the cleaning of your Ground connection will do a lot to enhance your radio listening enjoyment. Go for it!

## TROLLing for Pirates

formerly: off the wall the rumor center...

Late word is that Farmers From Holland were raided \*again\*! Not terribly surprising when you consider the frequency of their broadcasts and the power they used (more than one kilowatt). This is "only" their FIFTH raid, and Dutch authorities carried off everything this time. Not just the transmitter but the studio gear and even the CDs and tapes. Wonder how long they'll be off this time..?

SWRS (from Italy) is starting a new service to North America on 21.860 MHz in USB. Considering how well the 26m frequency (11470U) has gotten over here, the new one might be even better; however, I have only had a possible trace of them so far. Wonder what the power and antenna are for this one..?

## Free Radio QSL Statistics

(updated: 20 July 1999)

NAm = North American Pirate QSLs incl Canada  
diff = number of different stations represented

For = Foreign Pirate QSLs, outside NAm  
Tot = total different Pirate QSLs, NAm + For

NAME-STATE	Nam/DIF	Pirates For/diff	TOT	Cland Tot/diff	BEST QSL
R Brandt-DL	146/82	1363/787	869	16/10	KTVI / VotRock
G Zeller-OH	491/346	10/10	356	8/8	WHBH bust
J Filipkowski-RI	685/328	35/27	355		KMOM panties
N Wolfish-ONT	459/294	14/10	304		Radio Condor Intl
J Arthur-NY	513/277	22/18	294	4/4	SML Ltd
E Suter-VA	373/253	21/20	273		RBCN T-shirt
T Provance-OH	430/251	21/16	267	14/11	Vo Acid
E Cronkright-MI	219/219	9/9	228		Anteater Radio
E Rausch-NJ	266/201	22/17	218		LVdMTiempo/ Argosy Mag
R Pfaff-VA	200/194	21/21	215		R Amazonia beer can
P Murphy-VA	248/196	19/15	211		CSIC chicken
J Coalsworth-ONT	213/173	26/20	193		KMOM
R Ross-ONT	200+/151	35/26	177	50/37	KIWI
C Collins-WI	213/174	1/1	175		Primitive Radio
C Crawford-KY	290/156	2/2	158		Car Show
JD Stephens-AL	182/147	9/8	155	8/8	Radio G'day
C Smolinski-MD	161/139	20/14	155	2/2	VoVoyager bust
E Kusalk-ALTA	185/116	26/24	148	103/64	Anteater lic plate
B Stacey-AL	262/136	2/2	138		Zeppelin Radio WW
R Hunsicker-PA	193/132	2/2	134		WBSR
Y Lewis-IL	178/112	20/12	124		JRR-6229
W Taylor-PA	138/103	12/11	114		Vot Lumpfish
C Loddell-MA	90/75	29/27	102		Radio Mi Amigo
J Rose-VA	189/93	11/7	100		Radio Korak Intl
M Leclerc-CT	152/91	6/5	96		RBCN
A Spremo-NY	138/83	13/8	91	1/1	All of them
J McWilliams-PA	102/71	11/10	81		XEROX
R Pearce-VT	94/80	2/1	81		Radio Doomsday
S Gentry-IL	129/77	6/3	80		KMCR
R D'Angelo-PA	69/63	18/15	78	29/27	HeMan Radio
B Shelley-CA	70/61	1/1	62		KIWI
S Rogovich-VA	56/52	2/2	54		Radio Clandestine
V Havrilko-FL	56/39	14/12	51		Radio USA
J Laws-QUE	54/43	1/1	44		Partial India Radio
J Foster-MI	53/44		44		WORK
F Bergman-WI	76/41	1/1	42		Radio Doomsday
R Ruger-CA	63/38	3/1	39		FBI
M Pawl-NJ	50/35	2/2	37		
S Foechner-NY	54/34		34		WORK
S Paszkiewicz-WI	35/33		33	4/4	Radio Blandx
E Wiley-GA	45/33		33		Vot B&G, KDED
C Harkins-ONT	46/29		29		WGLR
R Doechner-TX	38/27	1/1	28		Vo An American
C Scott-OH	48/27		27		This is not Mystery R
G Lytle-TX	32/26	6/1	27		KIWI
G Neal-TX	29/24		24	5/5	Anteater License Plate
E Reynolds-NJ	30/21	1/1	22		Live Wire Radio
T Mazanec-OH	26/19		19		Vot Blue & Grey
S Bickel-KY	21/16		16		Radio USA
B Wooten-GA	16/13		13		
C Cuomo-PA	11/10		10		
H Short-MA?	10/9		9		Radio Garbanzo

The A\*C\*E QSL Statistics appear in the Feb, May, Aug, and Nov editions of Veried Response. Kindly update your totals in January, April, July, and/or October for inclusion; mail them to: ACE Stats, PO Box 1, Belfast NY 14711. Please note that the ACE Stats are only available to A\*C\*E members!

here's a look at what was slipped.....

## Under the door - the QSL report for August 1999

Rick Aiello called to tell me about a full data sheet from Blind Faith Radio signed by Dr Napalm in about six weeks.

Ross Comeau scored big this month with a no data letter from Radio Alfa Lima (via Bandonica Radio, in Holland - freq 11480 kHz) with postcard and photocopy of shack photo & rig for report to Hoogeveen PO Box in 16 days, a full data Email (#17) from Crazy Elmo's Relay World signed by Crazy Elmo in 5 days and a full data "Bingo Swami Sez" sheet from Radio Bingo signed by Jimmy Kershaw in 93 days for Email report to [radio bingo@chek.com](mailto:radio bingo@chek.com).

Joe Filipkowski had to hire a contractor to add a wall for a full data letter (#31) from Highlands Classic Rock (via SWRS) in 18 days, a full data card (#00133) with letter & infosheet from Radio Strike (via SWRS) signed by Roberto in 15 days, a full data e-mail QSL (#3) from Crazy Elmo's Relay World signed by Crazy Elmo in 6 days, a full data sheet (#8) from WPOE in 107 days from brdcst on 6955 & another blue full data sheet for brdcst via SWRS in 33 days both signed by Jack Ripper, a full data bright yellow sheet from Totally Bogus Radio Three signed by Mr. Sal in 15 days for FRN or FRW logging, a no data "DXer Wordsearch" sheet from WMFQ signed by Mr. Q Esselle for a logging somewhere, a full data yellow card from Interferenze (via SWRS) in 48 days, a full data letter & orange "skull" card from Alfa Lima International signed by Alfred in 19 days, a date only sheet from WHYP in 2 weeks, and a full data sheet (#1414) from WLIS in one week.

Bill Finn scored a partial data "staff photo" sheet (#31) from Radio Tornado Worldwide in about a month, a full data sheet (#123) from Radio Fusion Radio signed by Homey the Clown, a new "DXer Wordsearch" no data QSL from WMFQ initialed by QE, a full data sheet (#14) from KMART in about 2 weeks, two sheets from WLIS along with a post card and note signed Mr. Ducktail, a full data card (#698) received from Radio Azteca in about five weeks with a psychic consultant card, and two QSLs (#1 & 4) from CERW.

Scott McArdle said "Awww, shucks" when he got a full data QSL certificate & sticker from WPN in 98 days for report to Huntsville, and an email QSL from Crazy Elmo's Relay World within 24 hours for email report.

John McWilliams glommed onto a full data sheet from ORTQ signed by Jean Marc Beliveau in 926 days, a full data sheet and card from Alfa Lima Int'l signed by Alfred in 12 days, and a full data sheet with postcard and business card from Treasure Island Oldies Show (via SWRS) signed by Michael in 25 days.

Ray Pfaff startled his neighbors when he yelled "Leaping Lizards" upon the receipt of a full data sheet (#45) from 6YCAT in about 1 1/2 years, and a full data Comtrex box QSL (#1 and Only!) from The Voice of influenza in about 2 1/2 years with some stickers and some first aid stuff :-)

Mike Prindle sez, "A long time with no QSLs to report; when I do get a chance to listen hear WMPR ;(. Did get a date and freq only QSL from Radio Tornado Worldwide-a partial data yellow picture sheet of "Dr. Shortwave, Sr El Nino, Dr. Selsyn Blue, and Bill Finn" in about 6 weeks for a log someplace.

George Zeller let us know about a full data photo of grenade AM xmtr from Voice of Prozac signed by Sara Tonin, MD in 129 days for report to Pittsburgh.

Ye Olde Columniste managed a no data sheet from CHU Canada for a test transmission in about 15 days, and a full data "group QSL" sheet (#5) from Radio Bingo postmarked in Arthur, IL, in 192 days for an email report to [radio bingo@chek.com](mailto:radio bingo@chek.com). Thanks!

That's a wrap for this month; C U in 30. Best of DX and 73.

SIGfile tagline of the month:

"Where there's smoke, there's incomplete combustion."

## CLANDESTINE PROFILE

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Your loggings, information, and speculations about clandestine radio stations are always very welcome for this column. You can send them direct to your editor at 3492 West 123rd Street, Cleveland, Ohio 44111. Or, you can call (216) 941-3366 anytime, or else (216) 696-9077 between 1200-2045 UTC weekdays. E-mail input is welcome via my [georgez@aclink.com](mailto:georgez@aclink.com) address, with <http://www.aclink.com/~georgez/index.htm> providing access to my web page.

### CHINESE USING CUBAN TRANSMITTER TO SPY ON USA?

An article by Pablo Alfonso in the June 24 edition of *El Nuevo Herald* accuses the Chinese government of using a China Radio International transmitter site and other locations in Cuba for purposes of electronic espionage on the United States. I have seen little coverage of this article, but it is sufficiently interesting that I am going to print the whole thing here. The text was published in *Clandestine Radio Watch* #31 as translated into English by Armando F. Mastrapa:

### EL NUEVO HERALD ARTICLE

China is operating in Cuba a sophisticated network of electronic espionage aimed at the United States and taking advantage of the Castro regime's designated "electronic war against Yankee imperialism", this according to intelligence sources and documents from government agencies in which *El Nuevo Herald* has had access to.

"For China the use of Cuba as a base of electronic eavesdropping is of tremendous importance because it signifies for them a strategic placement in the rearguard of the United States", commented an ex-official of US intelligence.

The Chinese bases of electronic espionage have been camouflaged under the pretext of a collaboration between China and Cuba in the fields of electronics and radio communications, where both signed accords in the past month of February during the visit of Chinese Defense Minister Chi Haotian to Havana.

The principle bases of Chinese eavesdropping and tracking in Cuba are located northeast of Santiago de Cuba at the eastern most part of the country and in the zone of Bejucal in the province of Havana according to intelligence sources. The encampment of antennas in Santiago de Cuba are primarily dedicated to the tracking of US military satellites while in Bejucal the Chinese have mounted a complex system of intercepting telephone communications.

To cover these activities the official Chinese government radio station China Radio International is transmitting from Havana its shortwave programs toward the US and Latin America.

"The transmissions of China Radio International are now originating from Havana on 9570.0 kHz", asserted an internal report from the Federal Communications Commission (FCC).

The FCC located China Radio International's transmitter at 22.56.00 North and at 82.23.00 West, near the town of Bejucal, southeast of the city of Havana.

"Cuba is now interfering with upper and lower frequency bands with a powerful transmitter as it has never done before", indicated the FCC report. "On occasions where interference has been so strong it has sounded like 'star wars'", the report added.

According to reports of US government agencies obtained by *El Nuevo Herald*, Cuba in the last couple of weeks has been interfering with powerful equipment in the upper frequency bands and radio communications of air traffic in New York.

"The Cubans have been interfering with air traffic control communications and making false aeronautical transmissions of the Air Traffic Control of New York", stated an FCC communication obtained by *El Nuevo Herald*.

This interference has been tracked by US agencies' electronic monitoring and locating the source southeast of Havana in the province of Pinar del Rio.

On May 13 at 4:48 p.m. a false communication made at New York air control was made from Pinar del Rio and the transmission's origin was found at 22.12 North and at 83.34 West. "On this occasion they spoke on a high frequency band identifying themselves falsely as "OPEC21", a US C130 military plane flight", stated the report.

"This is a delicate issue that is treated practically in a secret atmosphere because of its political implications", commented a source. The Chinese bases are an addition to the electronic espionage station in Lourdes, province of Havana, that Russia has continued to operate since the disappearance of the Soviet Union and for which Cuba receives \$200 million annually.

### **HOW SIGNIFICANT IS THIS ARTICLE?**

It certainly is interesting to read some of the alleged details of China's electronic spying network in Cuba. The fact that there is such a thing should surprise nobody. The USA does the same thing to many other countries, of course. The fact that China Radio International is using the site of one of their transmitters for part of the antenna network is also a surprise to nobody. However, it is by no means necessary to operate an HF transmitter to "disguise" an eavesdropping operation. Antennas can be erected anywhere. Most ACE members have antennas in their back yard that can be used to pick up a variety of communications transmissions. Overall, the allegations on the Chinese spy network are news, but should not be a shock to anybody.

The jamming transmissions mentioned on air traffic frequencies must be intermittent, since I have seen no other references to Chinese jamming of air communications. It is probably more common to hear such jamming from domestic bootleg USA stations.

Finally, there isn't much that could be done about any of this, even if the USA wanted to do something. The spring bombing of the Chinese embassy in Belgrade has put somewhat of a chill into the USA-China relationship, with the Chinese holding the high ground for a while as a result of the bombing. In addition, the USA's economic interests in China are rapidly growing. I purchased a new camera last spring, and was amazed to find that all of the cameras for sale in the store were manufactured in China, including makes by Japanese firms and even all of the Kodak cameras. So, I don't think that a Chinese "spy" network in Cuba could evolve into much of political significance. But, it is a fascinating set of allegations.

### **COLOMBIAN NEWS**

I have seen no additional information on the possible reactivation of Radio Patria Libre. As we mentioned last month, the ELN's shortwave clandestine was shut down in a military action by the Colombian army. I have, however, seen several press accounts indicating that the level of rebel military activity has significantly increased in recent weeks in anticipation of forthcoming negotiations with the Colombian government. I stupidly misplaced one of them that discussed the use of tactical radio by the ELN and/or FARC. Still, with sunsets starting to get gradually earlier now that summer winds down, it may well be worth our while to scan the high end of 49 meters around the greylines to see if any Colombian clandestine signals are making their way to North America.

### **WBCQ SCHEDULE**

All ACE members have certainly heard Alan Weiner's WBCQ on 7415 kHz. He forwards a current station schedule, along with a coverage map indicating that the station uses 50,000 watts from Monticello, Maine. The shows are sent out at 245 degrees with a 70 degree beam width from a Harris SW-50 transmitter using "Pulse duration modulation." There is a variety of religious and quasi-right wing programming buying time on the station, including Brother Stair's Overcomer Ministry, but quasi-clandestine fare is not their main focus, that's for sure. Rates for buying time are listed at \$60 for one hour per week and \$50 for two or more hours per week. If you want more information, their web site at <http://WBCQ.net> is a good place to go.

### **CLANDESTINE COVERAGE IN *The ACE***

Throughout all of its history going back to the early 1980's, the Association of Clandestine radio Enthusiasts has been primarily oriented toward shortwave pirate DXing. This is still true. As the volume of pirate broadcasting increased noticeably during the 1990's, the extent to which ACE members are primarily interested in pirates has increased.

The reason that ACE has a clandestine column goes back historically to 1985. Andrew O'Brien was named to edit a clandestine loggings column. Prior to Andrew's column, clandestine loggings had been printed in Kirk Baxter's DiaLogs column. At the same time, your editor started writing the Clandestine Profile column as a background feature, integrating clandestine station activity, political developments, and so forth. When Andrew left on a lengthy round-the-world tour, the loggings column and the analysis column were combined into the Clandestine Profile, which survives today as you read it now. The first Clandestine Profile was in the June 1985 issue of *The ACE*, with both Andrew O'Brien's Clandestine Report and George Zeller's Clandestine Profile appearing in July 1985. One of the main motivations behind the move was that there was a significant feeling among ACE members that the Association of "Clandestine" radio Enthusiasts should have coverage of clandestines in it, by definition.

Many things have changed since then, in politics, in clandestine broadcasting, and in *The ACE*. It is interesting to look at Andrew's initial Clandestine Report column. It started out with a list of schedules for 17 active clandestines all over the world, mainly from DX sources such as Glenn Hauser's Listeners Notebook column in NASWA's Frendx bulletin and various press accounts. The rest of Andrew's column had loggings of twelve clandestines sent in by ACE members. In the western hemisphere alone, pure clandestine stations logged included La Voz de Alpha 66 (anti-Cuba) on 6666v kHz, La Voz Del CID (anti-Cuba on 6305, 9939, 11679.6, and 12610h (2x6305) kHz, Radio Marti (anti-Cuba, in its first broadcast from May 21, 1985), Radio Monibo (anti-Nicaragua) on 6229.9 kHz, Radio Quince de Septiembre (anti-Nicaragua) on 5563.3 and 5690 kHz, and Radio Venceremos (anti-El Salvador) on 3631 and 6556.5 kHz. In addition, there were numerous logs of a new unidentified station on 9920 and then 7400 kHz that tested at first with a pop song by Nat King Cole. These were the first tests of the CIA's Radio Caiman, which dominated the high end of 31 meters for years thereafter.

My point is that there were plenty of widely reported western hemisphere clandestines back in 1985 that generated a lot of interest in our hobby. In addition to these stations, ACE members logged five clandestines from Europe, the Middle East, and Africa, including Turkiye Komunist Partiye, Voice of the Libyan People, Radio Iran (also your tax dollars at work), Voice of the United Muslim Fighters of Afghanistan, and VOSPR from Sudan. These conditions no longer apply. The only "pure" shortwave clandestines who have been operating regularly from the Western Hemisphere in 1999 are the two stations of the Colombian rebels. As we pointed out last week, Radio Patria Libre has been inactive following its capture by the Colombian Army, and both stations were very tough loggings from North America even when they were actually broadcasting.

A variety of clandestines remain active on shortwave, but they are heavily concentrated in the middle east and Asia. Some of these put decent signals into North America, but few are in languages such as English or Spanish that are widely understood by North American DXers. The recent Serbian/Kosovo war resulted in just about no shortwave clandestine activity. Compared to 1985, the salad days of shortwave clandestine DXing are clearly long gone.

### THE CURRENT SITUATION

This should raise the issue of whether ACE still wants to devote four pages of its bulletin every month to clandestine DX coverage. During the last few years there have been periods when some ACE members hoped to reorganize the column coverage in our bulletin. Some changes have been made, notably Tom Severt's resurrection of our numbers column (bringing back an original feature from early editor Lani Pettit, and Bud Stacey's continual coverage of the booming FM micropirate movement. Even so, several ACE members ranging from Nick Grace to Kirk Trummell to Bill Taylor and others, have periodically suggested alternative uses for some of our bulletin pages.

Notably absent from all this discussion has been an evaluation of whether ACE members still find clandestine coverage to be useful. The huge decline of clandestine broadcasting during the 1990's led to the demise of Gerry Dexter's semi-monthly clandestine radio newsletter, although the excellent internet newsletter *Clandestine Radio Watch* by Martin Schoech, Nick Grace, and Armando Mastrapa has filled this niche in outstanding fashion. As the editor of the Outer Limits column in *Monitoring Times* magazine for the last seven and a half years, I have noticed that well over 95% of reader contributions to the column and reader feedback are concentrated in pirate DXing, not clandestine radio. It's likely that ACE members have a similar distribution of interests.

So, as what I hope is a public service to our membership, I am raising the issue of whether this column is still meeting our needs. Do you read the Clandestine Profile in *The ACE*? Is the material useful? Do you use the information in your DXing activities? Should we continue to maintain this feature in the bulletin? If so, are there suggestions that you have for its content? If not, do you have suggestions for alternate material that would be more useful?

I am not writing all this as part of a resignation or anything like that. I've been writing the Clandestine Profile column for over 15 years now, and I've only missed one column deadline in all that time. I personally think that there still is a niche for clandestines in our club. I have done quite a bit to revise the nature of the column over the years, particularly broadening its scope to include quasi-clandestines and dimensions of clandestine broadcasting that blur into pirate transmissions. I'm still willing to keep this up. But, I'm interested to hear from our membership about your interests and needs. Let me know what you think about the future of this column. You can reach me by mail, by e-mail, by phone, and so forth as outlined at the top of the column. Your input on all this will be very much appreciated.

### THANKS!

This month we thank the following DXers who sent in material direct for this column: Max Thomas (Florida), Armando Mastrapa (New York), Paul Giffin (California), Martin Schoech (Germany), Alan Weiner (Maine), and George Zeller (Ohio). Next month we all hope to hear from YOU by August 18 for the September *Clandestine Profile*.

## Micro 'casting

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The sole purpose of this column is to enlighten & educate ACE members about the many facets of Part 15 and micro radio- this is YOUR column! Please send all newspaper clippings, tapes, station profiles and what-have-you to the mailing address or e-mail address above.

**COMMENTS SESSION CLOSED:** By the time you read this column, the comments period concerning the low-power FM situation has been closed- unless the FCC or NAB extend it again. Hope you ALL did your part in contacting the FCC in favor of the low-power issue! Here's hoping that something will come out of all this mess so that the "little guys" (us!) can finally have a service to serve our communities in a decent and profitable (for all of us) way.

**DOCKFEST '99:** Several weeks ago, a local church put on an 8-band concert called "Dockfest '99" which lasted from 4pm 'til 12 midnight one Saturday evening. Yours truly was the main Sound Technician and stage roadie for the event; not only that, but the event went out LIVE and unedited via 87.9 FM! Yes, I blew the dust off my old Ramsey FM-10, retuned it from 96.5 (taken over by a Florida station) and cranked it back up as a special event broadcast station- Part 15, mind you! Yes, even though it'd been upgraded in the VCO area, it still drifted, but only slightly; I kept my Realistic DX-440 on the side as a station monitor and a tuning wand to tweak it every so often. Signs were put up about 1/2 mile from the site- hopefully, someone tuned in! Everything was a success- even the lighting technician got in a word or two, announcing the 'fest! It was fun again, for this special event station to be on the air....and now the:

**NEWS:** Another couple of micro stations have bit the dust, operating in the twilight period of the FCC comments period- and most folks think that civil disobedience will still have an effect on it all?!?! Hopefully, it won't hurt us....Per the newsgroups:

"An FM pirate station operating on 89.7 MHz and IDing as "The Flick" was reportedly shut down by the FCC and local police in the north Denver suburb of Federal Heights on 07/13/99. It appears that the FCC merely informed them to shut it off and they complied. The station was reportedly operating with 30 watts into an omnidirectional gain antenna at about 50 feet AGL (above ground level). The FCC stated that it was being widely heard throughout the Denver area (good! bud). A local police officer who is also a ham, participated in the "raid". He stated that the station was fully automated and was operating unattended from the back room of a pager sales office located at W. 84th Ave. & Pecos Street (Patrick M. Griffith, Federal heights, MO (via BusterC).

Another, similar incident occurred recently, with the operator complying with the FCC, shutting down but also looking at ways to get back on the air, maybe via Carrier Current or cable radio. In fact, he has complied with my request for an interview, coming up next in:

**STATION PROFILE:** Mike Batchelor wanted me to include his station's history for others out there, in his own words, for "people to see what our station is all about and what the FCC

is going after". He is also looking for e-mail, comments and ideas from others, so reach him at: [mike@showmeradio.com](mailto:mike@showmeradio.com)

Here's his story: "Basically, the station was started in order to provide a radio voice for our community (one of the biggest suburbs of St. Louis) and to provide the type of music which no longer received airplay on the FM dial- Big Band and middle-of-the-road easy-listening music, the kind of stuff enjoyed by people over 40. This idea was the brainchild of Bill Owens, who has since become a very good friend of mine. How I came into the deal was that I was a computer technician who also happened to be a longtime radio guy (note: many broadcast techs have left radio to at least make a living in the computer field- bud), who loved the idea of our town having it's own radio station. I saw his transmitter, we started talking and hit it off immediately. He invited me back to see his small station operate, which at that time was only on a part-time basis on weekends. The ultimate goal was to either purchase or build our own station to provide our format to the community. I got more & more wrapped up in the deal and began to search for open allocations on the dial and stations that might be potentially for sale."

"About two years ago, I posted to a bulletin board for radio pros that we were looking for a station in our area that was for sale. The next morning I received a message from the owner of a Class A station licensed in a rural town that could be picked up in our area and he informed us he was considering selling the station. We took the 40 mile trek to the studio of the station (located) in a converted apartment building. We looked at the equipment, coverage, etc. and figured the station was worth about \$200K- right? Dead wrong....the owner informed us that a broker told him the station was worth about \$850K to \$1 million. Unable to get that kind of backing, we went back to the drawing board, looking for anywhere where an allocation could be put in, only to find out that all the allocations that WERE open were frozen for one reason or another. So, it was then after a lot of research on the 'net, we decided to try and get our station on 24 hours a day with a signal that would cover all of St. Peters."

"We figured the Ramsey FM-10 transmitter that was on loan from a friend of Bill's and the small antenna we were running wouldn't cut the mustard, even after we boosted our antenna's height. The transmitter only provided us with a few blocks coverage at best and it was very prone to drift. On the [alt.radio.pirate newsgroup](#), I located a Ramsey FM-100 and we purchased the unit- it provided the needed stability but not the range; we put up a J-pole antenna made of copper pipe, which boosted our range, but still not enough to be reaching more than a handful of people. We brainstormed and added a cable TV distribution amp I purchased from a local surplus store- we were up to a solid mile and a half- still not enough. That left us looking for more power yet, so we purchased a Radio Shack 30 watt amp modified for the FM band and voila- we were there! We were covering our entire city with a signal that could rival any of the conglomerate-owned St. Louis stations! We spent the next year mulling over ways to run the station reliably 24 hours, even unattended. We tried reel tapes, video tapes, audio tapes, etc, but we deemed them too repetitive and unreliable."

"It was then that we kind of gave up for a bit and went to search for another station for sale- and found an AM/FM combo on the outskirts of the metro area that was just in a nightmarish state of disarray as far as equipment and lack of staff; still the ownership wanted \$550K for a station with a directional antenna pointed AWAY from St. Louis; it needed new equipment and was losing over \$5k a month! We then went back to our LPFM and after some time, we were able to acquire a computer automation system: Raduga. Bill spent over three months readying the computer for 24 hour operation, loading the entire station's CD library into MP3 format in the computer. This brings us up to about April- we began operating 24/7 with our automation system at the 30-watt level, when a station 65 miles away boosted their power on our frequency of 90.1 and left us scrambling for an open frequency. After mulling this over,

we retuned to 95.1 at the same power. Coverage was increased because of the cleanliness of the signal and being in the commercial part of the band made more people able to find us. Everything was going well, we had everything perfect and we were looking at even more expansion when the fateful day came (July 9) when the "cease & desist" letters came from the Federal Cookie Commission. Lacking funds to go into a long court battle, we decided not to fight and shut down our transmitter."

"We've only been off the air two days now and are evaluating possible ways to get back on the air- carrier current looks like it could be interesting but I'm not sure how far it'll go in the neighborhood. Also, we're considering Cable Radio, but it's hard for many (listeners) to receive."

Mike also mentioned that four conglomerates own all the stations in St. Louis- Clear Channel, Emmis, Infinity and Radio One- and these have joined to pressure the FCC into squashing all the micro stations they can find. It's hard to compete with multi-billion-dollar-backed NAB members....He also hopes there's enough grassroots support out there to get the LPFM service up & running as a legal entity.

Be sure to contact Mike at his e-mail address and show your support....And see the website: [www.showmeradio.com/oasis](http://www.showmeradio.com/oasis) for more information. By the way, I almost forgot- their station name was The Oasis!

(Note: during early-mid July, about 8 or 9 stations in the Mobile, AL area, including one I do some programming for, have been bought up by two large conglomerates- I can't remember which ones, but the face of small radio is about to change drastically here also. bud)

And as a last note: I'm going to try and do a "Website Profile" in future columns- look for Broadcast Warehouse coming soon! With that, I'll say "Thanks!" to the folks who post news on [alt.radio.pirate](#) and via the FRN Grapevine- also thanks to Mike Batchelor for sharing his experiences; thanks to The ACE staff for allowing me this space; and thanks to YOU for reading it!

esta es Bud, hasta la vista!

# Covert Comms

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By Tom Sevart

Welcome again to Covert Comms, a column dedicated to numbers stations, unusual radio signals, and intelligence-related information.

I have set up a spy numbers discussion forum on the internet. The URL is <http://www.delphi.com/spynumbers>. The site is a place to discuss current issues regarding numbers stations and related information. There is also a chat room where you can discuss what you're hearing with other monitors. You have to become a Delphi member to post information or chat, but you can sign in as a guest to just read what has been posted. All you have to do to sign up as a member is pick a nickname and give some information. I have included a "newbies" section for people to ask questions about numbers stations, and a loggings section to include loggings of numbers stations. I have also been thinking of including each month's "Covert Comms" column on the forum. I hope you will visit the forum often.

I have recently finished a book called *Spyworld* written by Mike Frost. Mr. Frost worked for the Communications Security Establishment (CSE), the Canadian version of the NSA. Mr. Frost was tasked with setting up listening posts in various Canadian embassies around the world. According to the book, the American and British embassies already contained listening post, and the NSA was pressuring the CSE to get involved in embassy collection. Mr. Frost and the CSE worked closely with the NSA, who supplied them with technical support & equipment. The CSE gathered intelligence by monitoring microwave links and cellular telephone signals, which is still occurring today. *Spyworld* also describes some of the facilities of the NSA. For example, the NSA has a room that simulates the radio traffic in any city in the world. This room was designed to give agents a feel for what radio signals they will come across when conducting SIGINT activities in any given city. Overall, this book is a fascinating read. The book was published in 1994 and is well worth getting if you can find it.

John Maky writes: "Last night on the regular 10970//13921 E10 MIW broadcast at 0315, a strange incident occurred... Faintly in the background on 13921, I could hear a 4XZ marker. When the MIW2 broadcast concluded at 0318, the 4XZ marker disappeared. This wasn't audible on 10970. Obviously they were mixing. A possible connection???"

This wouldn't surprise me one bit. 4XZ is listed as Haifa Naval, Israel. However, most monitors believe that it has a different purpose. 4XZ normally sends 5L messages, and sometimes plaintext. One of the biggest arguments against 4XZ being used by the Israeli navy is the high volume of coded messages. The Israeli Navy is not as large as the traffic would have you believe. Unless most of this traffic is dummy traffic, there doesn't seem to be any reason for the high volume. Another argument is that 4XZ operates in broadcast mode only, on various frequencies all over the HF band. If it were really used for naval purposes, it would most likely be used for two-way communications. The selection of various HF frequencies implies that they want coverage for various parts of the world. This makes sense from a naval point of view, but how often does the Israeli Navy travel to different parts of the world? I would imagine that Mossad agents are more scattered around the world than the Israeli Navy.

4XZ is an interesting station which can be heard in the US evenings on 10046 and 18481 kHz. As I said, messages normally consist of 5L groups. The message number and group count in the preamble are always sent backwards. This is because Hebrew is read from right to left. Sometimes plaintext messages are sent in (I'm assuming) Hebrew. However I'm not familiar with the language so I don't know what kind of information is passed. Since it's plaintext, I would have to say it is low-level unclassified information. Hardly the kind of traffic a Mossad agent would need, which may indicate that 4XZ has other users.

Lastly, I managed to catch a transmission of the V7 "Spanish Man" on 17434 kHz at 2040 UTC. This one took me quite by surprise as I hadn't heard it before. It consisted of an OMSS in USB repeating 544 544 544 1 for several minutes, then into 5F groups. The station finally signed down with 000 000. This station is rarely heard in North America, so I was glad to catch it.

That's all for this month. Please check out the spy numbers forum and let me know what you think.

# The Presidents Page

Pat Murphy - P.O. Box 15830 - Chesapeake, Virginia 23328-5830

VISIT THE ACE WEBSITE

[WWW.FRNET/ACE](http://WWW.FRNET/ACE)

**Post Office screwed us up royally** in the past three months. Lost newsletters, mangled and late delivered subscriptions and very poor service in general. I had a meeting with the local postmaster and I hope we have resolved the problems. Anytime you don't have your ACE by the 10<sup>th</sup> of the month, e-mail me ([pradio@erols.com](mailto:pradio@erols.com)) or send me a letter and we'll replace the lost newsletter. I can't thank our ACE members enough for their understanding and support during this trying time with the Post Office.

**Longtime ACE member** and DX'er extrodinaire, Ed Kusalik of Alberta was featured in a newspaper article in the "Southern Sun Times" that highlighted his expertise in catching far away stations and his impressive collection of QSL's. Article had a photo of Ed's very nice listening shack and Ed at the controls. With all that equipment in Ed's shack maybe we should head for his house next Winterfest instead of Kulpsville. Hats off to Ed Kusalik!

**Critics, Critics!** Couple of really nasty posts on the Grapevine that made false accusations about the ACE. I don't know why some people have to make false accusations about our club, guess it makes them feel important, but I do want to address them, so you'll know they are B.S. One of those false statements was that our club was "dwindling". The fact is, the ACE is one of the very few radio listening clubs that has grown over the past couple of years, and continues to grow. The ACE is an ALL VOLUNTEER effort of pirate shortwave DX'ers. No one makes any money, no one has any power and no one is conspiring to

overthrow the local Rotary Club. Why people have to circulate these false rumors is beyond my comprehension. If you have a beef with the ACE contact me directly and I promise we'll work it out. The individual that was making all the noise has never contacted me nor said exactly what the problem was. If they had, we would have worked it out. I will always err in favor of the club member and do everything I can to keep club members happy. It's a hobby, lets have fun, loosen up, huh? There are no "shenanigans" going on behind the scenes of the ACE, simply because there is no "behind the scenes". We all work on our own, individually and seldom even talk to each other on the phone. 99% of our correspondence and contact with each other is done by e-mail. Hard to create a conspiracy by e-mail and one can only wonder exactly what it is we'd do if there actually were a conspiracy! Conspire to mess up the propagation for those we don't like? Come to think of it, there isn't anyone we don't like, even the guy who keeps making false accusations about us. Point is, got a beef, contact me and we'll work it out. The ACE is about having fun listening to pirates, it's as simple as that!

# ASSOCIATION OF CLANDESTINE RADIO ENTHUSIASTS

PO Box 15830 Chesapeake, VA 23328-5830

The A\*C\*E is an association of individuals who find pirate, clandestine and covert communications an interesting part of their radio listening hobby. The primary existence of the club revolves around the publication of a monthly bulletin, The A\*C\*E. The bulletin reports on pirate, clandestine, covert and other unexplained broadcasts. Also, the readers are provided with other available material concerning motives, explanations and the theories behind these various broadcasts and broadcasters. The ACE as an organization, does not encourage, support or condone any illegal activity; we simply seek to understand the nature, and reasoning behind such broadcasts. If your interests include listening to pirate radio stations, clandestine broadcasts and covert communications, The A\*C\*E is for you!!

All subscriptions, renewals, and queries regarding subscriptions should be sent to the above club address. Contributions for each editor should be sent to their own given addresses.

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